



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# Burnham Prairie, Burnham, IL

## Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration

### Habitat and Species Focus Area

**Project Location:** Burnham Prairie is located in the southeast corner of Cook County within Burnham, Illinois approximately one mile south of Chicago and one mile west of the Indiana State Line. Over 86% of this site is a State of Illinois Nature Preserve owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

**Project Description:** The project will restore marsh, sedge meadow, savanna, wet prairie and wet-mesic prairie. The site's hydrology will be restored with the construction of a berm to prevent floodwaters from impacting groundwater-fed wetlands. The incorporation of soil amendments in conjunction with the reduction of floodwaters will reduce the deposition and retention of excessive nutrients. Additional restoration measures include the removal of invasive species through herbicide applications, clearing woodlands, selective clearing of shrubs, prescribed burns, seeding and planting plugs of native species, and the installation of fencing.

**Non-Federal Partner: Forest Preserve District of Cook County.**

**Project Benefits:** The project will restore 93 acres of remnant ridge and swale complex. Woodlands comprised of invasive woody species will be cleared with subsequent reintroductions of fire to restore historic wet prairie communities, allowing native seed banks with rare and conservative plant species to germinate. Burnham Prairie lies just a few miles west of the western edge of Lake Michigan and is known as an internationally significant area for a high diversity of migratory birds. Restoring the remnant ridge and swale complex will also greatly benefit wetland species of birds, especially the shore birds and waterfowl by providing forage, shelter, and breeding habitat. The mandatory operation and maintenance of this restoration project by the Forest Precerve District of Cook County will ensure permanent long term sustainable benefits.

**Project Status:** The construction contract was awarded June 2011. This project is expected to support 31 new jobs in the private industry.



Drilling a core in existing berm (bottom) and applying herbicide to invasive plants (top)



Total Project Costs	
Federal	\$1,392,300
Nonfederal	\$749,700
Total	\$2,142,000

Project Milestones	
Award construction contract	Jun 2011
Complete construction	Jun 2016

Point of Contact	
Kirston Buczak, (312) 846-5552	
<a href="mailto:Kirston.A.Buczak@usace.army.mil">Kirston.A.Buczak@usace.army.mil</a>	